



Tabor Church News

March, 2009

ōMy Life is in Your Handsö

ōMy times are in your hand.ö - Psalm 32:15a

Over these past two months, our family has experienced some pretty difficult losses. When Nancy's young brother died so suddenly in January, we all were stunned and shaken by his sudden death. Last weekend when I heard the tragic news of a 23 year old farmer in my home community who died in a grain bin accident, I again felt the waves of sadness and loss.

We know that accidents happen. We know that tragedies come, but when they come to us, we experience a reality that is unlike any other. When hard times come, we find out about our relationships, our community and our faith. Is our faith real and authentic or it is just something we wear?

When the psalmist prayed to God in Psalm 31, he was asking for deliverance from his enemies. In his distress, he lamented how broken his body and spirit felt as many continued to whisper terror all around him (v. 13). He was grieving and saddened and enraged at his situation.

It was at this point, though, where the psalmist took hold of his God and clung to Him like an anchor in a turbulent storm.

"But I trust in you, O LORD. You are my God. My times are in your hand."

All of our times are indeed in the hand of our caring God. The good times, the bad times, the normal times. All of our days are known by God and cherished by God (Ps. 139). While we will never fully understand with our finite minds why young people have to die so suddenly, we are continuously invited to trust in God, who holds everything in His hands.

Grief and loss come to each of us, sometimes even in surprising ways. Since these losses, I have found myself being more grateful for the gift of life. I cherish even more each moment that I am blessed to live. I appreciate every breath that I can breathe, every step that I can take, every sunrise that I can see, because it may be my last one.

God does not want us to fear the unknown, nor stop loving because of how painful it is to lose those we love, but rather, God invites us to trust Him with our living and our dying, for the totality of our life is always in God's hands.

Getting in touch with our mortality can have this effect on us. Life is short sometimes. It is a precious gift always. It is to be lived as fully as God intends it to be, for however long or short it is. In this season of Lent, may we all enjoy being on this faith journey together. May we be open to discovering joy-filled truths that will bring us life and hope and love. - Pastor Corey



Worship Themes

- March 1** - *Sign from Above + Communion* Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25, I Peter 3:18-2, Mark 1:9-15 -Corey preaching
- March 8** - *"The Impossible is Possible"* Genesis 17:1-7, Psalm 22, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38 -Corey preaching
- March 15** - *Overturning Human Wisdom+* Exodus 20:1-17, I Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22 -Karen preaching
- March 22** - *Lifted Up+* Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21 -Corey preaching
- March 29** - *Losing your Life + Youth Sunday* Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51, John 12:20-33 -TMYF sharing



You are invited to join the Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship for a Fiesta Fundraiser on Sunday, March 22 at noon. We will serve lots of tasty food and there will be a piñata for the children!

Also coming soon:
The contest for the cutest TMYF Baby Picture!

The pictures will be on display at The Fiesta on March 22 Wednesday Night, March 25 on Youth Sunday, March 29 Please vote with your donations!



WDC News

Shane Claiborne to speak

Shane Claiborne, author of *Irresistible Revolution* and *Jesus for President* will speak at Bethel College on March 5 at 7 p.m., where the *Lost in Light* band will also perform. Co-sponsored by Faith Mennonite Church and Bethel College, this is free and open to the public, but geared toward youth/young adults. He will also speak at the Staley Lecture at Bethel College on March 6, 11 a.m. at Krehbiel Auditorium.

How Can I Keep From Singing?

Explore the Hymnal Supplements *Sing the Story* and *Sing the Journey* with Ken Nafziger on March 21, 2-5 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge KS. This Saturday afternoon resourcing event is for choirs and choir directors, worship leaders and planners, pastors, song leaders, and musicians of all ages. *Registration free for Tabor members!!!* All are welcome again in the afternoon for a hymn sing at 2 p.m. with Ken. This event is jointly sponsored by the Western District Conference Music and Worship Task Force and Eden Mennonite Church.

Great Plains seminary class

Teaching the Bible in the Congregation will be the Great Plains seminary class for June 2009. Doug Miller, Ph.D., Hillsboro, KS, will teach the 3-credit-hour class. Auditors welcome. A great class for pastors, Sunday school teachers, deacons/elders, and other church leaders. More details available in early April. For more information, contact Lois Barrett, Director, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Great Plains Extension, 316 -283-7098.



Our Lives are in your hands

February 25 marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a time in the church year where believers are invited to reflect and repent and recall the path that Jesus took to the cross. This year, as we all face countless changes within the world in which we live, we are assured again by the scriptures that our lives are indeed in God's hands.

The texts give us two focus points: in the Old Testament the salvation history recites of the major God-initiated covenants and in the Gospels of Mark and John, the journey of Jesus from his baptism to his death on the cross, from anointing by God to surrender into the hands of God. These scriptures will call the faithful to continue in their faithfulness, grounded in what God has provided in the covenants and in the example of Jesus's self-giving love.



This year, we invite more of you to pray over the scripture texts for each Sunday. We invite you to pray for the worship leader, preacher and musicians that will lead the service. And we invite you to come earlier to worship. We hope to have everyone seated in the sanctuary at 9:25am, so the prelude music can help lead us all into a spirit of worship and contemplation.

Caring Group Ministry

Caring group members met for a time of food and fellowship on February 15. Ten groups were represented and three groups had their entire group present (almost). After enjoying a delicious meal, Carol Duerksen led a discussion using various elements of party mix. The questions were as follows:

- M & M ó What is something that's really sweet about your caring group?
- Peanut ó There's a peanut butter scare in the United States right now. What scares you? What worries you?
- Raisin ó What in your life or the life of your caring group is all shriveled up?
- Cheerio ó What's happening in your life that makes you say "O my goodness?"
- Goldfish ó How and when do you hear God say "I love you?"

What was affirmed was the trust level that has developed between groups and the sharing of their lives with one another. Thank you to everyone who came. We consider this a vital ministry of Tabor Church.

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

by Mike Morgan



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Tabor Fitness Classes On The Way!

The Health Ministry Team received a good response of questionnaires from the congregation with a lot of interest in getting exercise classes underway. Thank you for your input! We are in the process of gathering resources and working out the details so we can bring you quality classes that fit your schedule. We will be announcing the starting date shortly so stay tuned for more details.

Council Meeting Reflections

At last month's church council meeting, considerable time was spent reflecting on how the pew cushion issue had been handled at the January 25th annual meeting. Members of the council felt uncomfortable with the process that happened and took responsibility for some of the confusion. The council and deacons acknowledged that there were hurt feelings for various reasons on this issue and discussed ways to bring healing in this situation.

In the meantime, the deacons are working on a policy that will help bring clarity to how gifts are given and received when they are designated for special projects. The council also decided in the future that when they pass a proposal that is then brought to the congregation, they (council) would bring that proposal as a motion prior to any discussion. This would help to ensure a smoother process and less confusion.

As we work and pray for healing, the council decided to put the collected funds for the pew cushions in reserve in the Trustee budget.

We do not know what may or may not happen with this issue in the future, but we are committed to listening to one another, learning from our past and loving one another unconditionally.

The Corinthian Plan

Mennonite Church USA is doing something about the health care crisis. It is estimated that there are as many as 100 pastors currently without health insurance in Mennonite church USA and the church has developed The Corinthian Plan, a new health cost sharing program for pastors and employees of Mennonite Church USA congregation and churchwide agencies. It will provide health coverage as well as additional benefits like long-term disability coverage, life coverage and other optional benefits such as vision and dental coverage.

In II Corinthians 8 and 9, Paul writes about a collection he has organized for the believers in Jerusalem. He appeals to a principle of fair balance to motivate the Gentile churches in Macedonia and Corinth to give to the needs of those in Jerusalem. This scripture has guided and inspired the project team that has developed this new plan. The Corinthian Plan is more than simply health coverage. It is a program that allows all MC USA congregations to practice mutual aid by sharing in the cost of health care for all pastors and church workers.

At a minimum, every congregation participating in The Corinthian Plan contributes \$10 per attendee per year. This mutual aid support will be used to help those congregations that can't afford to pay for health coverage for their pastors. The Corinthian Plan is an investment in the health and the health care of our pastors and other church leaders.

The plan will be discussed at Columbus this summer and sign up will begin shortly thereafter. The plan needs about 80% participation from Mennonite Church USA congregations in order to implement this ministry.

Camp Mennoscah

We are still accepting registrations for our **Scrapbooking Retreat** on March 6-7! We don't want you to miss this opportunity for two whole days of scrapbooking fun and fellowship.

Spring Cleaning! We want to look great for all our guests! Regardless of the wonderful, yet fickle, weather of Kansas, Camp Mennoscah will be hosting a spring cleaning extravaganza on March 2-4 and March 6-7 to prepare the camp grounds and buildings for the new season of campers and guests. Join us for a carnival of cleaning and landscaping fun on any or all days! Please contact Camp Mennoscah so we can plan meals.

Sustainable Farming? Join us for our Growing and Eating Faithfully Retreat on March 21-22. Our first Sustainable Foods & Farming Retreat! Jon Piper, Esau Professor of Biology at Bethel College will speak, and we're offering the following sessions: Cooking with Sustainable Foods, Taking the Plunge: Lifestyle Transition into Sustainable Farming & Low-Impact Living, and Community Gardening: Feeding the Whole Person. How can you resist? We're now offering a Saturday only option.

Men & Boys Retreat at Camp Mennoscah April 24-26: Any questions? Contact Brent Voran: 316-284-2657 or bcvoran@cox.net.

For all of the above contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or camp-mno@mennowdc.org for information.

Budget and Debt Counseling

With rising prices and economic uncertainty, Mennonite Mutual Aid offers you help in reviewing your spending habits, debts, and budget. MMA offers free budgeting and debt counseling through LSS Financial Counseling to help with your basic finances and debt issues. Visit MMA-online.org or call (877) 809-0039 to learn more about this service. Locally, Marvin Penner (316) 283-3800 is also a consultant who offers free consultation to those who need financial help. If you are facing financial difficulties, don't hesitate to talk to your deacon or any of the pastors. There are resources available to help you.



Kansas MCC Sale Notes

41st Annual Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale April 17 and 18, 2009 ~ Kansas State Fairgrounds

By working together for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale, we have the opportunity to share with the needy of our world. This year's theme is "Caring In the name of Christ" with the theme verse "Let each of you not look to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:4,5. The sale provides us with an opportunity to share our gifts and resources in order that the needy of our world are provided for. The sale generated over \$250,000 for MCC last year (total donations from the 46 relief sales in the US and Canada generated over \$4 million dollars for MCC). The purchasing committee needs cash gifts for 48 items ranging in cost from \$150 for potatoes to \$7,500 for building rentals. If you can support the sale budget in this way, you may leave a donation with our contact couples, Jerry and Leann Toews and Kris and Archie Schmidt.

What can you bring as your gift to the hungry and hurting at home and abroad? Quality woodwork and needlework items, cotton tea towels, hobby items, crafts, plants and baked foods are much in demand. Also requested are "recycled" quilt supplies and linens for Quilter's Corner.

Be a part of the 2009 Run for Relief - either as a participant or a sponsor! All ages and abilities are welcome. The Run for Relief (5K) is held on Sat., April 18, 8 am, on the paved Rice Park bike path in Hutchinson. Get a free t-shirt and New Year's Cookie coupon with each entry. To enter: Pay a \$15 entry fee (due by 4/1/09) or raise your own \$ through sponsors. See your sale contact person for entry forms. Join the fun and help those in need!

The 14th House Against Hunger is currently under construction in Inman located at 604 Church Drive. This 1,500 square foot home features three bedrooms, two bathrooms, vaulted ceiling, two-car garage and an unfinished full basement with family room, third bathroom and two additional bedrooms. Willard Koehn of Goertzen Homes is serving as General Contractor. What is a House Against Hunger? The Hunger House is a home constructed using donated and discounted materials and services. The house is sold with the profits donated to Mennonite Central Committee via the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. Individuals or companies interested in donating services to this project, please contact Richard Ediger, Committee Chairperson at 620-543-2787; Verbie and Bruce Thiessen at 620-585-2282; or Gail Wiens at 620-585-2433. Monetary donations may be sent to House Against Hunger Project, c/o Richard Ediger, PO Box 488, Buhler, KS 67522. To purchase the home, please contact Richard Ediger.

Mennonite Central Committee

All are welcome to attend a community meeting to learn more about **Mennonite World Conference** at the MCC center in North Newton (121 E. 30th St) at 7:00 p.m. on March 10. Three international guests will be speaking about their individual Mennonite experiences and how MWC has influenced them. Tigist Tesfaye is a 25 year old Ethiopian Mennonite from the Gurdshola Meseret congregation, Addis Ababa, of the Meseret Kristos Church. She is working for the MCC UN Liaison Office and as a MWC Intern. Cynthia Peacock is a 60 year old Indian, who grew up in Kolkata and worked for MCC India for 38 years. Albert C. (Bert) Lobe who has served and worked for MCC for most of his adult life, along with serving as a principal for several schools in Canada. He is now the Chair of the Conrad Grebel University College Board and lives in St. Jacobs, Ontario.

MCC Spring Seminar 2009

A seminar entitled "The Global Food Crisis: Hunger for Justice" will be held at the Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS on **March 28-29**. Planned by the MCC U.S. Washington Office, the seminar will feature plenary sessions and workshops on a variety of topics, including the history and causes of the crisis; the impact of bio-fuels; sustainable eating; and how to advocate effectively; and an overview of MCC food projects. U.S. Senator Sam Brownback has been invited to speak; the seminar will also include an optional visit to the senator's office in Wichita on Monday, March 30. For further information go to: <http://mcc.org/washington/programs/seminar/>.

Kansas Friends of MCC Comforter Blitz

Monday, March 9 ~ 12:00 noon - 9:00 pm
Tuesday, March 10 ~ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

At Journey of Yoder campus
(Former Yoder Mennonite Church)
1 mile north of Yoder

Bring needle, thimble, scissors and sack lunch
See bulletin Board for complete details.

